CLAIMS

1.   A method for modifying an hierarchical structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, the structure specifying a channel node having a network address and hierarchically arranged sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content and links specifying the hierarchy, the method comprising:

        displaying a representation of the structure;

        receiving a selection of a node during a user session;

        receiving an identification of a location to insert the node within the hierarchical structure during the user session;

        temporarily inserting the node within the hierarchical structure during the user session; and

        establishing the node as part of the hierarchical structure for retrieval and use during a subsequent user session.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the inserting step includes locally caching an identification of the node and the location.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the inserting step includes initially assigning a random number to the node.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the establishing step includes assigning a key to the node, wherein the key is selected based upon the location.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the assigning step includes assigning a plurality of identifiers to the node.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein the assigning step includes assigning an identifier to the node providing an address path of the node within the hierarchical structure.

7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the establishing step includes transmitting an identification of the node and the hierarchical structure to a remote server.

8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the receiving the identification of the location step includes tracking a cursor position to detect placement of the node within the displayed representation.

9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the tracking step includes detecting a user dragging and dropping the node within the displaying representation using a cursor-control device.

10.   The method of claim 1, further including modifying the displayed representation to indicate the node inserted into the hierarchical structure.

11.   The method of claim 1 wherein the displaying step includes displaying icons having connections, the icons representing the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the node, and the connections representing the hierarchical relationships between the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the node.

12.   A method for modifying an hierarchical structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, the structure specifying a channel node having a network address and hierarchically arranged sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content and links specifying the hierarchy, the method comprising:

displaying a representation of the structure, including displaying at least one master node;

receiving a selection of the master node during a user session;

receiving an identification of a location to insert the master node within the hierarchical structure during the user session;

inserting a representation of the master node in the identified location of the hierarchical structure;

receiving changes to the master node; and

automatically propagating the changes to the inserted master nodes in the hierarchical structure.

13.   The method of claim 12, further including:

displaying at least a master structure for the master node, the master structure specifying a node structure associated with each inserted master node in the hierarchical structure;

receiving structural changes to master node; and

automatically propagating the structural changes to the inserted master nodes in the hierarchical structure.

14.   The method of claim 12 wherein the receiving changes step includes receiving at least one of the following associated with the master node: content; a link to content; and a network address.

15.   The method of claim 12, further including associating each master node with a particular user group.

16.   The method of claim 12, further including specifying properties for each master node.

17.   The method of claim 16 wherein the receiving changes step includes receiving information for the properties.

18.   The method of claim 16 wherein the specifying properties step includes specifying permissions associated with users having access to the master node, the permissions specifying changes the users can make to the master node.

19.   The method of claim 18 wherein the specifying permissions step includes specifying default permissions.

20.   A method for modifying an hierarchical structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, the structure specifying a channel node having a network address and hierarchically arranged sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content and links specifying the hierarchy, the method comprising:

          displaying a representation of the structure;

          receiving a selection of a node during a user session;

          receiving user-specified properties for the node;

          classifying the node as a custom node controlled by the user-specified properties;

          receiving an identification of a location to insert the custom node within the hierarchical structure during the user session; and

          inserting a representation of the custom node in the identified location of the hierarchical structure.

21.   The method of claim 20 wherein the classifying step includes specifying data for the custom node based upon the user-specified properties.

22.   The method of claim 20 wherein the receiving the selection step includes receiving selection of a particular one of a plurality of preconfigured custom nodes.

23.   The method of claim 20, further including receiving identification of user-specified fields for the custom node.

24.   The method of claim 20 wherein the receiving the properties step includes receiving a query used to retrieve sub-nodes for the custom node.

25.   The method of claim 24 wherein the receiving the properties step includes receiving as the query an identification of a location and a term for use in performing a search of the term at the location to obtain sub-nodes for the custom node.

26.   An apparatus for modifying an hierarchical structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, the structure specifying a channel node having a network address and hierarchically arranged sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content and links specifying the hierarchy, the apparatus comprising:

a display module for displaying a representation of the structure;

a selection module for receiving a selection of a node during a user session;

a receive module for receiving an identification of a location to insert the node within the hierarchical structure during the user session;

an insert module for temporarily inserting the node within the hierarchical structure during the user session; and

a module for establishing the node as part of the hierarchical structure for retrieval and use during a subsequent user session.

27.   The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the insert module includes a module for locally caching an identification of the node and the location.

28.   The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the insert module includes a module for initially assigning a random number to the node.

29.   The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the module for establishing includes an assign module for assigning a key to the node, wherein the key is selected based upon the location.

30.   The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the assign module includes a module for assigning a plurality of identifiers to the node.

31.   The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the assign module includes a module for assigning an identifier to the node providing an address path of the node within the hierarchical structure.

32.   The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the module for establishing includes a module for transmitting an identification of the node and the hierarchical structure to a remote server.

33.   The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the receive module includes a module for tracking a cursor position to detect placement of the node within the displayed representation.

34.   The apparatus of claim 33 wherein the tracking module includes a module for detecting a user dragging and dropping the node within the displaying representation using a cursor-control device.

35.   The apparatus of claim 26, further including a module for modifying the displayed representation to indicate the node inserted into the hierarchical structure.

36.   The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the display module includes a module for displaying icons having connections, the icons representing the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the node, and the connections representing the hierarchical relationships between the channel node, the sub-nodes, and the node.

37.   An apparatus for modifying an hierarchical structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, the structure specifying a channel node having a network address and hierarchically arranged sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content and links specifying the hierarchy, the apparatus comprising:

      a display module for displaying a representation of the structure, including displaying at least one master node;

      a selection module for receiving a selection of the master node during a user session;

      a receive module for receiving an identification of a location to insert the master node within the hierarchical structure during the user session;

      an insert module for inserting a representation of the master node in the identified location of the hierarchical structure;

      a module for receiving changes to the master node; and

      a module for automatically propagating the changes to the inserted master nodes in the hierarchical structure.

38.   The apparatus of claim 37, further including:

      a module for displaying at least a master structure for the master node, the master structure specifying a node structure associated with each inserted master node in the hierarchical structure;

      a module for receiving structural changes to master node; and

a module for automatically propagating the structural changes to the inserted master nodes in the hierarchical structure.

39.   The apparatus of claim 37 wherein the module for receiving changes includes a module for receiving at least one of the following associated with the master node: content; a link to content; and a network address.

40.   The apparatus of claim 37, further including a module for associating each master node with a particular user group.

41.   The apparatus of claim 37, further including a module for specifying properties for each master node.

42.   The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the module for receiving changes includes a module for receiving information for the properties.

43.   The apparatus of claim 41 wherein the module for specifying properties includes a module for specifying permissions associated with users having access to the master node, the permissions specifying changes the users can make to the master node.

44.   The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the module for specifying permissions includes a module for specifying default permissions.

45.   An apparatus for modifying an hierarchical structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, the structure specifying a channel node having a network address and hierarchically arranged sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content and links specifying the hierarchy, the apparatus comprising:

a display module for displaying a representation of the structure;

a selection module for receiving a selection of a node during a user session;

a receive module for receiving user-specified properties for the node;

a classify module for classifying the node as a custom node controlled by the user-specified properties;

a module for receiving an identification of a location to insert the custom node within the hierarchical structure during the user session; and

an insert module for inserting a representation of the custom node in the identified location of the hierarchical structure.

46.   The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the classify module includes a module for specifying data for the custom node based upon the user-specified properties.

47.   The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the selection module includes a module for receiving selection of a particular one of a plurality of preconfigured custom nodes.

48.   The apparatus of claim 45, further including a module for receiving identification of user-specified fields for the custom node.

49.   The apparatus of claim 45 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving a query used to retrieve sub-nodes for the custom node.

50.   The apparatus of claim 49 wherein the receive module includes a module for receiving as the query an identification of a location and a term for use in performing a search of the term at the location to obtain sub-nodes for the custom node.

51.   A structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, comprising:

a master node having a network address and having properties specifying a location of content associated with the master node;

a master structure specifying a structure of sub-nodes for the master node;

copies of the master node associated with user groups; and

links between the master node and the copies of the master node, wherein the links are used to propagate the properties and the master structure to the copies of the master node.

52.   A structure for electronically organizing content in a channel communicating over a network with content sites, comprising:

a custom node having a network address, wherein the custom node has user-specified properties;

sub-nodes each selectively having a pointer to particular content;

links between the custom node and the sub-nodes;

pages associated with the sub-nodes; and

links between the pages and the sub-nodes.

53.   The structure of claim 52 wherein the custom node has user-specified fields.

54.   The structure of claim 52 wherein the custom node has a query used to retrieve sub-nodes for the custom node.

55.   The structure of claim 54 wherein the query specifies an identification of a location and a term for use in performing a search of the term at the location to obtain sub-nodes for the custom node.